

Appl. No.: 10/659,475

Group Art Unit: 1617

Applicants' Reply to the Office Action mailed October 6, 2004

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3-5 and 16, and cancel claim 2, without prejudice, as shown below in the following complete listing of all claims ever presented. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the instant application:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A carotenoid composition comprising lycopene suspended or dispersed in a medium-chain triglyceride, wherein the medium-chain triglyceride is derived from esterification of a substantially pure medium chain fatty acid and substantially pure glycerol.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A composition according to claim 2 1, wherein the fatty acid is a C6 to C12 fatty acid.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A composition according to claim 3 1, wherein the fatty acid is a C8 to C10 fatty acid.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A composition according to claim 2 1, wherein the fatty acid is selected from the group consisting of caprylic acid, capric acid, lauric acid, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): A composition according to claim 1, comprising up to 10% by weight lycopene.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): A composition according to claim 6, comprising between 4% and 5% by weight lycopene.

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Claim 8 (Previously presented): A composition according to claim 6, comprising up to 98% by weight medium chain triglyceride.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): A composition according to claim 8, comprising between 20% and 80% by weight medium chain triglyceride.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): A composition according to claim 9, comprising between 30% and 70% by weight medium chain triglyceride.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): A composition according to claim 8, further comprising an oil-soluble antioxidant.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): A composition according to claim 11, wherein the oil-soluble anti-oxidant is selected from the group consisting of tocopherols, butylated hydroxy anisole, butylated hydroxytoluene, propyl gallate, ethoxyquin and ascorbyl palmitate, natural tocopherols, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): A composition according to claim 12, wherein the tocopherol is selected from the group consisting of beta, gamma-, and delta- tocopherols and mixtures thereof.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): A composition according to claim 11, wherein the anti-oxidant comprises up to 15% of the composition.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A composition according to claim 14, wherein the anti-oxidant comprises between 5% and 10% by weight of the formulation.

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Claim 16 (Currently amended): A method of providing a bioavailable antioxidant comprising orally administering to a host an effective amount of lycopene suspended or dispersed in a medium chain triglyceride, wherein the medium-chain triglyceride is derived from esterification of a substantially pure medium chain fatty acid and substantially pure glycerol.